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DEC 21 2005

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Ifay F. Chang : **ON PETITION**
Application No. 09/634,139 :
Filed: August 8, 2000 :
Attorney Docket No. 20676-000100US :

This is a decision on the petition filed October 26, 2005, to withdraw the holding of abandonment of the above-identified application, which is treated under 37 CFR 1.181.

The petition is DISMISSED.

Any request for reconsideration of this decision must be submitted within **TWO (2) MONTHS** from the mail date of this decision. Extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) are permitted. The reconsideration request should include a cover letter entitled "Renewed Petition under 37 CFR 1.181," or, as explained in more detail below, "...under 37 CFR 1.137(a)" or (b). This is not a final agency decision.

The above-referenced application was held abandoned on August 12, 2004, for failure to file a timely response to the non-Final Office Action mailed May 11, 2004, which set a three (3)-month statutory period for reply. Accordingly, a Notice of Abandonment was mailed March 29, 2005.

Petitioner contends that a response to the May 11, 2004 non-Final Office Action was timely filed on June 24, 2004. Copies of the purported response are of record with a receipt date of April 18, 2005 and a notation that petitioner has on numerous occasions tried to file the same response, beginning on June 24, 2004. Additionally, with the instant petition, petitioner has included copies of a certified mail receipt from the USPS dated June 24, 2004 and suggests that the receipt is proof that the response to the non-Final Office Action was mailed on June 24, 2004.

Unfortunately, neither a certificate of mail pursuant to 37 CFR 1.8¹, or a postcard

¹37 CFR 1.8(b) states that in the event that correspondence is considered timely filed by being mailed or transmitted in accordance with paragraph (a) of this section, but not received by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, and the application is held to be abandoned or the proceeding dismissed, terminated, or decided with prejudice, the correspondence will be considered timely

receipt pursuant to MPEP 503² was used and either would have been accepted as proof of filing but not a certified mail receipt for which the contents of the package can't be determined.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (Office) file is the official record of papers filed in this application. A review thereof does not reveal that a response was filed to the non-Final Office Action on June 24, 2004 and since the proof submitted does not substantiate a finding that the response was received and perhaps through error of the USPTO not now of record, the holding of abandonment will not be withdrawn and the notice of abandonment will not be vacated.

Petitioner may wish to file a petition to revive under 37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b). Section 1.137(b) now provides that where the delay in reply was unintentional, a petition may be filed to revive an abandoned application or a lapsed patent pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b). A grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) must be accompanied by:

- (1) the required reply, unless previously filed. In a nonprovisional application abandoned for failure to prosecute, the required reply may be met by the filing of a continuing application. In an application or patent, abandoned or lapsed for failure to pay the issue fee or any portion thereof, the required reply must be the payment of the issue fee or any outstanding balance thereof;
- (2) the petition fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(m) (\$675.00);
- (3) a statement that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional. The Commissioner may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional; and
- (4) any terminal disclaimer (and fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(d)) required pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(c).

The filing of a petition under the unintentional standard cannot be intentionally delayed

if the party who forwarded such correspondence:

- (1) Informs the Office of the previous mailing or transmission of the correspondence promptly after becoming aware that the Office has no evidence of receipt of the correspondence;
- (2) Supplies an additional copy of the previously mailed or transmitted correspondence and certificate, and
- (3) Includes a statement which attests on a personal knowledge basis or to the satisfaction of the Commissioner to the previous timely mailing or transmission. If the correspondence was sent by facsimile transmission, a copy of the sending unit's report confirming transmission may be used to support this statement.

²The USPTO has a well-established and well-publicized practice of providing a receipt for papers filed in the USPTO to any applicant desiring a receipt. The practice requires that any paper for which a receipt is desired be filed in the USPTO with a self-addressed postcard identifying the paper. A postcard receipt which itemizes and properly identifies the papers which are being filed serves as prima facie evidence of receipt in the USPTO of all the items listed thereon on the date stamped thereon by the USPTO. See section 503, Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP 503).

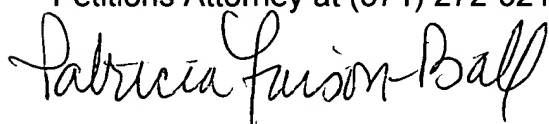
and therefore should be filed promptly. A person seeking revival due to unintentional delay cannot make a statement that the delay was unintentional unless the entire delay, including the delay from the date it was discovered that the application was abandoned until the filing of the petition to revive under 37 CFR 1.137(b), was unintentional. A statement that the delay was unintentional is not appropriate if petitioner intentionally delayed the filing of a petition for revival under 37 CFR 1.137(b).

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Mail Stop Petition
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By FAX: (571) 273-8300

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned Petitions Attorney at (571) 272-3212.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Patricia Faison-Ball". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patricia Faison-Ball
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions